

**CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT**  
**Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**November 9, 2004**

**Advisory Committee Attendees:**

Bob Clayton   Chris Majors   Mark Varien

Bud Poe        Kelly Wilson    Chuck McAfee

**Bureau of Land Management Attendees:**

LouAnn Jacobson, Monument Manager

Steve Kandell, Monument Land Use Planner

Laura Kochanski, Monument Archaeologist

**Public Attendees:**

Amber Clark, Gabi Morey, Gala Pock, Dewayne Findley, Darlene Denison

**Agenda**

9:00am - 9:10am	Greetings and Introductions
9:10am - 10:30am	Travel to and Tour Crow Canyon Archaeological Center
10:30am - 11:30pm	Travel to and Visit Fuels Treatment Adjacent to Indian Camp Ranch Subdivision
11:30am - 12:00pm	Return to Anasazi Heritage Center
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Lunch at the Anasazi Heritage Center
12:30pm - 1:00pm	Planning and Monument Manager Update
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Review and Vote on Vision Statement, Overall Objective and Edits to Transportation Recommendations
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Review and Vote on Draft Committee Letters
3:00pm - 3:15pm	Public Comment
3:15pm - 3:30pm	Approval of Minutes from the August 10 <sup>th</sup> and September 14 <sup>th</sup> Meetings and Next Agenda

**Note, the remainder of these minutes describes the discussion associated with each agenda topic.**

### **Greetings and Introductions**

Kelly Wilson welcomed all participants. He addressed the Committee and stated that we did not have a quorum (i.e., at least seven members present). Kelly asked everyone to introduce themselves. Following introductions the Committee departed for the field.

### **Travel to and Tour Crow Canyon Archaeological Center**

Committee members traveled to and visited Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. Mark Varien provided the Committee members and members of the public present, with a tour of the facility. Mark also provided an overview of the history, mission, programs and activities of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.

### **Travel to and Visit Fuels Treatment Adjacent to Indian Camp Ranch Subdivision**

Committee members traveled to and visited a fuels treatment project adjacent to Indian Camp Ranch subdivision. Mark Krabath, Forester with the San Juan National Forester provided an overview of the project and answered questions. Indian Camp Ranch subdivision was identified in the Montezuma County fire plan as a community at risk from wildfire. Mark noted that one of the most effective ways to protect communities is to create defensible space adjacent to homes, on private property, and on public land in the wildland urban interface (WUI). The treated acres on this project will reduce wildfire intensity and provide a safe location for firefighters to perform suppression operations. This project was not designed to stop a fire, but rather to alter its behavior so that it can be safely suppressed by fire crews. During this project 180 acres of cutting occurred, spreading a mosaic pattern over 240 acres of land. The mechanical device used to complete this fuels treatment was a hydro-mower.

Mark Varien asked if research has been conducted to look at how vegetation returns to an area that has been treated with a hydro-mower. Mark Krabath indicated that no research has been conducted to date; however, Colorado State University is starting a research project to address this question in the spring of 2005. Bud Poe asked if the area had been seeded either before or after the treatment. LouAnn Jacobson stated that the area was not seeded, due to a lack of funding. Chuck McAfee inquired if the project would have been completed if the subdivision was not located here. LouAnn replied that it would not have been. Chuck also asked if the project will result in an increase in noxious weeds. Mark stated that a BLM ecologist will be monitoring the area to determine this.

### **Return to Anasazi Heritage Center/Lunch at the Anasazi Heritage Center**

Kelly Wilson reiterated that the Committee did not have a quorum (i.e., at least seven members present). As a result, the Committee did not vote on any agenda items (e.g., vision statement). Steve Kandell asked the Committee members present to encourage other Committee members to attend the next meeting. Steve also noted that the Monument sent a letter recently to Dolores County Commissioner, Cliff Bankston. The purpose of this letter was to provide Commissioner Bankston with an application to be considered to serve on the Monument Advisory Committee. Commissioner Bankston would be considered to replace Duane Gerren who is resigning from the Committee.

Kelly Wilson handed out a sample of aerial photos being developed by Montezuma County. Kelly noted that county employee Rob Peterka can be contacted for additional information on the aerial photos. Kelly also stated that between these aerial photos and those developed by the BLM that a good data set of aerial photos for the Monument exists.

Kelly then asked a new member of the public attending the meeting to introduce them self. Gabi Morrey from the San Juan Mountain Association (SJMA) introduced herself. Gabi stated that she was a new Monument volunteer coordinator with SJMA. She also clarified that her coordinator activities did not include working on the existing site stewardship program.

### **Planning and Monument Manager Update**

LouAnn Jacobson provided a short overview of recent Monument activities. She stated that a group of three BLM employees from Washington D.C. visited the Monument recently. The focus of their visit was to discuss Monument oil and gas and livestock grazing issues. The group spent two days in the field visiting several existing oil and gas wells, and potential future locations for oil and gas wells. These visits focused on the southwest region of the Monument and the Mockingbird Mesa area. On the second day of the group's field trip Bob Clayton provided a tour of the Kinder Morgan facility at Mockingbird Mesa.

During discussions with the three BLM employees from Washington D.C., LouAnn was made aware that the Monument was chosen as one of six National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) units to receive additional funding. However, receiving this additional funding is conditional upon completing the resource management plan for the Monument in 2006.

Bob Clayton asked how the BLM employees from Washington D.C. felt about re-routing pipelines and roads to avoid lithic scatters. LouAnn stated that the BLM is trying to "raise the bar" on the protection of all cultural resources in National Monuments.

LouAnn also noted that the Mail Trail #1 oil and gas environmental assessment (EA) will be out for public comment soon, and that the BLM recently acquired the Bert Price Ranch private inholding within the Monument. This 540 acre Monument inholding was transferred to the BLM at end of September 2004, from the Farm Service Agency (FSA). FSA did two treatments for Russian knapweed on the property before transferring it to BLM. BLM plans to do one additional treatment. LouAnn also noted that 62 archaeological sites were recorded on the property.

Bud Poe asked if the newly acquired property would become part of the Monument. LouAnn replied it would. Bob Clayton asked why non-native plant species would be applied to the new property. It was his understanding that the Monument is attempting to develop a range of native plants only. LouAnn replied that due to the abundance of Russian knapweed on the property some type of plants needs to be established that can out compete this noxious weed. BLM will consider both native and non-native varieties of plants to accomplish this task.

Steve Kandell then provided an update on the Monument planning process. The Monument contracted out much of the work for completing the resource management plan. Currently, the Monument is considering terminating the contractor responsible for this work, due to poor

performance. The Monument is meeting with the contractor in the next few weeks to determine if the existing problems can be worked out or if the existing contract should be terminated. If the existing contractor is terminated, the Monument will have to decide how to complete the remaining work. The three options available to the Monument include: 1) contracting back out the work; 2) doing the work internally with BLM staff; or 3) some combination of options one and two. Steve further stated that dealing with this contractor issue has brought much of the work on the plan to a stand still. As a result the existing project schedule has suffered.

Steve also stated that this slow down will affect the time frame for receiving additional input from the Committee. At this point in the process the Committee needs to review and comment on the draft, range of alternatives. When these alternatives will be available for their review is unknown at this time. Steve stressed that all of the recommendations provided by the Committee are being considered during the development of the range of alternatives. The BLM has put all of the Committee's alternative recommendations into a database to track how they are being handled. When the range of alternatives are ready for the Committee to review, the Monument will account for how each and every alternative recommendation they provided was used or not used. Steve also noted that the BLM Colorado State Office will review the range of alternatives, prior to the Committee reviewing them.

Kelly Wilson asked if once the range of alternatives are completed can both the BLM Colorado State Office and the Committee review them at the same time, to keep the process moving along. Steve responded that since the Committee meetings are open to the public the BLM needs to make sure they are comfortable with the alternatives before the Committee members can review them. Kelly then stated that the Secretary of the Interior requested the formation of the Committee. He is concerned that their recommendations on the alternatives could get buried under the comments from the Colorado BLM State Office and/or public. He would like to see the Committee's recommendations go directly to the BLM Colorado State Director and Secretary of the Interior.

Chris Majors stated that the Committee always has the option of sending their alternative recommendations directly to the BLM Colorado State Director and Secretary of the Interior, if they are not accurately reflected in the Monument's range of alternatives. Chris Majors then asked Steve Kandell for an example where a Committee recommendation could not be incorporated into the Monument's range of alternatives. Steve stated one hypothetical example could be if a Committee recommendation was not consistent with the proclamation establishing the Monument.

Mark Varien felt that waiting until the BLM Colorado State Office reviews the alternatives, before the Committee reviews them would be appropriate. He reiterated that the alternatives database developed by the Monument would ensure that each of the Committee's recommendations would be accounted for.

Chris Majors asked if the BLM Colorado State Office would be open to reviewing the portion of the alternatives completed, so the Committee would then have something to review while the remaining portion of the alternatives are being developed by the Monument. Steve Kandell said that he would ask the State Office if this approach could be used.

Mark Varien asked where the meeting with the contractor to resolve outstanding issues would be held. Steve Kandell responded that it would most likely be held in Denver, Colorado. Chris Majors then asked how involved the range subcontractor has been in the planning process. Steve responded that the range subcontractor developed an outreach plan to ensure there was adequate involvement in developing the grazing portion of the plan. The range subcontractor also met with several grazing stakeholders (e.g., permittees, conservation organizations) to identify grazing issues to be addressed in the plan. These issues were then incorporated into the scoping report for future use in developing the plan.

Chuck McAfee stated that he didn't feel the Committee should continue going on field trips. Instead, the Committee should not meet until there is something substantive for them to work on and respond to (e.g., range of alternatives). Steve Kandell responded that the Committee should consider having a half-day meeting in January 2005, to resolve unfinished business and then not meet again until the range of alternatives are ready for them to review.

### **Review and Vote on Vision Statement, Overall Objective and Edits to Transportation Recommendations/Review and Vote on Draft Committee Letters**

Steve noted that there are several items that the Committee needs to review and then vote on. Some of these include their vision statement, overall objective, cross country travel recommendations, etc. Mark Varien suggested not discussing any of these items at this meeting, but instead to wait until the next meeting when hopefully there are enough Committee members present to vote on them.

Kelly Wilson agreed with Mark, but did want to review and discuss the draft Committee letter on the meeting's agenda. This letter presents the Committee's position on two issues. The first issue was allowing the reburial of human remains and associated funerary objects, inadvertently discovered, on public lands. The second issue is supporting the designation of the Sand Canyon National Historic Register District. Steve Kandell reminded the Committee members that they had requested BLM to draft a letter for their review, supporting the reburial policy, at their last meeting. Chuck McAfee inquired about the national historic register district portion of the letter.

LouAnn Jacobson stated that Crow Canyon Archaeological Center spent considerable time and resources preparing a nomination for this national historic register district. LouAnn asked Mark Varien to explain what steps Crow Canyon Archaeological Center have taken to date, toward getting Sand Canyon nominated.

Mark Varien stated that the Sand Canyon areas was chosen to be nominated as a national historic register district because it represented the Great Pueblo period. Mark then explained what the National Register of Historic Places is, and the process Crow Canyon Archaeological Center went through to complete a nomination form for Sand Canyon. Mark estimated that Crow Canyon has volunteered approximately 500 hours of labor at a cost of \$12,600.00 in nominating Sand Canyon.

LouAnn Jacobson explained that the BLM Washington Office asked the Colorado BLM State Director to send them the Sand Canyon nomination with a letter of support. The Colorado BLM State Director asked LouAnn to talk to the public about nominating Sand Canyon as a national

historic register district first. LouAnn felt that bringing the issue to the Committee and letting them discuss it with their constituencies would be a good approach to getting public input. Mark Varien stated that from an archaeological perspective nominating the area as a national historic register district provides a synthesis about the place.

Bob Clayton asked Mark if Crow Canyon would go through the nomination process again. Mark responded that if they were asked again they would likely say no. However the synthesis of data was very valuable. Chris Majors asked if this nomination was approved if the public wouldn't see it as another land grab by the federal government. Chris then asked if the nomination would result in further restrictions on the land. Mark Varien responded that nominating the area would not make a difference in how its managed. The Monument designation already increased the protection of cultural resources in the area.

Kelly Wilson asked if this nomination was similar to the designation of wilderness study areas. LouAnn Jacobson responded that they are very different. First and foremost, there are no legal requirements for managing a National Historic Register District, but there are for wilderness areas. Mark Varien stated that the designation would be a good thing. If the Committee supported it and the community did not, it could put the Committee in a bad position. However, it would be unfortunate if the community took that position.

Chris Majors asked what would occur if the area was nominated and then an oil and gas lease was proposed in the area. LouAnn Jacobson responded that it would be reviewed using the same process as before it was nominated. Mark reiterated that the area deserves nomination and that the Committee should think about supporting it. Chuck McAfee said the Committee should do what is right in this situation and not worry about potential political ramifications. Bud Poe felt the area should receive nomination, if for no other reason than the additional options it provides to obtain funds for managing the area and its resources.

Kelly Wilson stopped the discussion and told the Committee that they needed to move on. He then asked Monument staff for an update on several issues. These issues and their status are as follows: 1) status of firewood collection violations (LouAnn stated that BLM law enforcement has not reported any violations recently); 2) status of the Wallace EA (LouAnn stated that a decision record should be out in the next few weeks); and 3) status of ongoing land exchanges (LouAnn stated that the Perry land exchange is still in progress and that there are no others in progress). Chris Majors asked if BLM will continue to pursue land exchanges. LouAnn said that it is very difficult to get through the land exchange process, especially getting the proposal approved by the BLM Washington Office. LouAnn stated that an outright purchase is much quicker; however, getting the funding is increasingly difficult.

Kelly Wilson added that Montezuma County has obtained a grant to set up a crusher on County Road BB and 10, to lay sandstone on 10. There will be no mining in the Monument. He felt the project would improve access along this section of County Road 10.

### **Public Comment**

Amber Clark encouraged the Committee to support the nomination of the Sand Canyon National Historic Register District.

Dewayne Findley stated there are two items that could conflict with each other. They are the Sand Canyon National Historic Register District nomination and the grazing permit renewal EA. He felt that the BLM should bring the nomination to the Montezuma County Commission for them to review and better understand. He also stated that the more BLM can educate the public on what the nomination means the better.

### **Approval of Minutes from the August 10<sup>th</sup> and September 14<sup>th</sup> Meetings and Next Agenda**

Since a quorum was not present (i.e., at least seven Committee members) the meeting minutes were not approved. It was agreed that their review and approval would be tabled until the next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be from 9:00am to 12:00pm on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the Anasazi Heritage Center. Steve Kandell agreed to send an email to all Committee members to remind them of the meeting.

**Meeting was adjourned**